

Claims

I claim:

1. A method of filtering liquid through a filter, the method comprising:
 - providing a filter having a filter cavity comprising a first zone at least partly filled with media and having a fluid outlet, and a second zone with a fluid inlet which is in fluid communication with the first zone outlet and the second zone being at least partly filled with media;
 - forcing liquid through the first zone of the filter cavity;
 - collecting the first-zone-treated liquid at the first zone fluid outlet and removing the collected liquid from the filter;
 - conducting the collected liquid to a storage tank so that the collected liquid is stored for a storage time;
 - returning the stored liquid from said storage tank to the filter by forcing the stored liquid to the fluid outlet of the first zone, without allowing the liquid to flow through the first zone media or the second zone media, and then forcing the stored liquid from the fluid outlet of the first zone to the second zone fluid inlet;
 - forcing the liquid through said second zone; and
 - removing the second-zone-treated liquid from the filter.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising sending the second-zone-treated liquid from the filter to a water tap for use.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first zone outlet comprises a central return tube extending down through the first zone and having an open bottom end.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first zone outlet comprises a media cavity extending through a first zone radial-flow media block, and wherein the first-zone-treated liquid is collected in the media cavity, conducted to the storage tank, and then returned to the media cavity and forced to the inlet of the second zone.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first zone outlet comprises a perforated tube extending through first zone radial-flow media, and the first-zone-treated liquid is collected in the perforated tube and conducted to the storage tank, and then is returned to the perforated tube and forced to the inlet of the second zone.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein an anti-bacterial media is received in at least part of the first zone and wherein the anti-bacterial media imparts a biocide into the first-zone-treated liquid.
7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising storing said collected liquid in the storage tank before returning the liquid from said storage tank to the filter, so that the biocide is present in the first-zone-treated liquid for an extended period of time to kill bacteria contained in the liquid.
8. The method of Claim 6, wherein a biocide-removal media is received in at least a part of the second zone, and the method further comprises removing said biocide from the liquid during the step of forcing the liquid through said second zone.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the collected liquid is conducted to the storage tank and returned from the storage tank through a single combined outlet-inlet intermediate port.